

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed July 22, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-5, 7-21, 23-32, and 43-74 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 20, and 30-32 have been amended. Claims 6, 22, and 33-42 have been cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 43-74 have been newly added. The prior art made of record has been considered but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. The Applicants believe that no new matter has been added and that a new search is not required to examine the amended claims and the newly added claims.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for noting that claims 30-32 are allowed and that other claims would be allowable if proper amendments are made to certain independent claims.

CLAIMS

Claim 1

The Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent upon claim 1. However, in order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6. In this regard, the Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 6. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 6, and, therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 2-5 and 17-19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg.Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

Claim 20

The Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 20 and the claims dependent upon claim 20. However, in order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22. In this regard, the Applicants thank the Examiner for

indicating that claim 20 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 22. Claim 20 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 22, and, therefore, claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 21 and 23-29 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 20.

Claims 43-59

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claims 10 and 11. Claim 43 includes the features of claims 1, 10, and 11, and therefore, claim 43 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 44-59 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 43.

Claims 60-74

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claims 15 and 16. Claim 60 includes the features of claims 1, 15, and 16, and therefore, claim 60 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 61-74 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 60.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

In addition, any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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